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|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/851,242 | 05/08/2001 | Charles J. Runkle | 2000.16 | 4003 |

29494 7590 08/10/2004

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EXAMINER

STAICOVICI, STEFAN

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1732

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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20040806

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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed May 28, 2004 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefan Staicovici, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1208. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianne, can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stefan Staicovici, PhD

Stefan Staicovici
Primary Examiner 8/6/04

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August 6, 2004